(d) by when the telephcue connection registered against demand note No. D'B-607 (Application No. A-2782) issued on 6tli August, 1996 is likely to be installed; and

(e) by when the waitjng list is likely to be cleared?

TflE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. IONS (SHRI BENl PRASAL VARMA): (a) to (c) Out of the total waiting list of 1955 t)f Genelal Categogry as on 28.2.97 in th-steel city of Rotirkeia, 1064 connections have since been provided. The remaininig waiting list of 891 coiild not be cleared since only 1000 Ire expansion could be completed Jv stead Lif 2000 lines proposed fo" RLU Exchange, Rourkela Township

(d) This telephone connection is likely to be inMalled by end of October 1997.

(e) The remaining waiting list is likeiy to be cleared progressive by June, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and sitores.

BASIC communication facilities in rural areas of Maharashtra

2340 PROF. RAM KAPSE: Wil the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(c) the tcrgtet fixed alongwith the time frame for providing basic com. niunication facUitiies to all the villages in Maharashtra;

(b) whether technology developed by C-DOT has been helpful in pro ding cheaper communication faci 1 es in rural areas of the State;

(c) if s'o, the details thereof, and

' (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNT CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Out of 40023 villages in Iviaharashtria, 27420 village' have akeady been provided with telecom facility. The remaining villages are planned to be provided with, basic communjication fac ties during the IXth Plan-

(b) to (d) Technology developer. by C—DOT comprising of 128 to 1400 line exchanges has been found to be very suitable for modernising the telecom facilities in rural areas of the coutry C-DOT exohanges up to 256 liuas do not require Air Condivioned environment.

Multiple providers in internet services

2350. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD. Wm the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have oeen received for ending the rr.on-opoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ijmited of the Department of Tele. communications in Intet access rnd services to permit multiple providers for more competitive service;

(b) if so, the main points made by the representationists and the actioii taken thereon; and

(c) the comparative position ob tpining in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Ktorea, etc in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Come representations have been loeeived seeking permission/licence to operate Internet Service Provider as also proposing to end monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Pro-ptsrsl regarding opening of Internet service provision by Indian regis-tererl companies is under consideration of the Governer.

(c) The information on compara-have position in countries like Malay sta, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Korea etc. in this regard is not avilati able

ADB aided Rural Projects

2351. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whethe Government have entered into a bid for ADB aided rural projects for which tenders were flouted by DOT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether selection has been made for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details of the terras and conditions of the contracts; and

(e) by when the projects are likely to be set up, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNI-CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir.

The Telder is under evluation

Import of enginiis for Pilodess Target Aircraft

2352. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whethir it is a fact that HAL spent Rs. 9.22 crores on the deve lopment of an engine for pilotless target aircraft which was unsuccess ful, as a result of which 14 engines were imported at a cost of Rs. 6.75 crores; and

(b) if so, who is accountable for this loss?

THK MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The Pilofless Jarget Aircraft Engine (PTAE-7 eiigine), designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics 'Ltd (HAL) has been successfully flown on 18 May 1995. This is the first ever Aero-Gas Turbine Engine developed in the country. The project cost went up to Rs. 9..82 crores in 1989, due to technical problems. In the meanwhile, to ensure uninterrupted flight testing programme of PTA, import of 14 engines was authorised. However, future requirements for the PTA programme will be with the HAL developed engine, after certifi-cation. The magnitude of the development, expenditure of this engine, is much less than the development costs of such engines elsewhere in the world.

(b) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Selection of NCC cades for aonnal camps

2353. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) tfie procedure adopted as crite ria for selecting NCC cadets for an nual camps including percentage of total candidates/cadets selected for such camps throughout the country;

(b) the details of facilities made available for NCC, cadets in such camp durations: and

(c) the expenditure incurred on annual camps during the last two years, year-wise and the cadets undergone/attended these camps in the country and the number of casualties of cadets, if any, occurred during the above periods?